



File Code: 3420  
Date: June 13, 2016

Deborah Darden, Superintendent  
Assateague Island National Seashore  
7206 National Seashore Lane  
Berlin, MD 21811

Dear Ms. Darden,

Enclosed is the 2016 biological evaluation for Southern pine beetle (SPB), *Dendroctonus frontalis* Zimmermann (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), on the Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, MD. The purpose of this evaluation was to 1) determine whether or not SPB was present at the Park, 2) assess the location and extent of the damage, and 3) to provide management recommendations for minimizing associated impacts.

Forest Health personnel from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, Field Office in Morgantown, WV, worked with personnel from Assateague Island NS and The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Forest Pest Management, to collect data at Assateague Island NS. As of spring 2016, approximately 400 acres of loblolly pine, *Pinus taeda* L. mortality have occurred on Assateague Island NS. Data was collected from three sites and shows two sites increasing in size and one declining. All three sites are of medium control priority.

We recommend that the Assateague Island NS Staff implement based on the Park's management goals either no action or the cut and leave alternative and develop a comprehensive SPB/loblolly pine management plan to minimize associated impacts of SPB. In addition, we recommend that the Assateague Island NS begin a public awareness campaign about SPB and continue to annually monitor tree health conditions and survey for signs and symptoms of SPB infestations. In addition to visual surveys, it is also recommended to deploy attractant-baited traps to survey. The MFO is currently assisting with implementing a monitoring plan for deploying SPB traps (e.g. quantity, trap type, trap locations, etc.), and can also help by preparing a display to place in their visitor center that explains their SPB management plan.

Our office has and continues to look forward to working with Bill Hulslander and Jonathan Chase of your staff.



If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Karen Felton at (304) 285-1556, Bill Oldland at (304) 285-1585 or Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

ROBERT LUECKEL  
Field Representative

Enclosure

cc: Bill Hulslander, Chief of Resource Management, Assateague Island NS  
Bob Tatman, Maryland Department of Agriculture  
C. Casey Reese, USDI National Park Service  
Heather Harmon Disque, Maryland Department of Agriculture

KDF